

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 20 with the following rewritten paragraph.

In accordance with the above-described technology, a user can ask for preparation of an ID photo to DPE shops which exist more than devices for automatically preparing ID photo. Further, if a user brings, among photographs that a user ~~has~~ possesses, a photographic film or an information recording medium with photographs that a user likes because of being well taken recorded therein to a DPE shop, an ID photo can be prepared from the photographs that the user ~~likes~~ prefers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 37, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph.

The image to prepare the ID photo (an example thereof is shown in Fig. 5A) is divided into a large number of elongated regions each of which has a certain width (corresponding to a few pixels), its longitudinal direction corresponding to a top-bottom (vertical) direction of a subject (person) in the image

(A part of division lines is shown by broken lines in Fig. 5B). Each elongated region is scanned from the vertical direction upper side of the subject to the vertical direction lower side, and a density variation amount is computed repeatedly. A position at which the density variation amount first exceeds ~~firstly~~ a predetermined value is stored as a proposed top-of-head point. Such operation is implemented for each of the respective elongated regions. Either a long side direction of the image or a short side direction thereof may be the vertical direction fixedly. The vertical direction may be detected by conventional techniques. Alternatively, the vertical direction may be determined by an operator. Hereinafter, the vertical direction is referred to as the Y direction and a horizontal direction perpendicular to the vertical direction is referred to as the X direction.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 38, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph.

An interface position between a hair portion of the subject and a background is stored as a proposed top-of-head point for each elongated region with its division line being shown by a broken line in Fig. 5B. The proposed top-of-head point,

positioned at the ~~most~~ highest position in a portion included a large number of proposed top-of-head points along the Y direction, is designated as the top-of-head point. X and Y coordinates of the proposed top-of-head point are detected (see Fig. 5C, also). In this way, the top-of-head point in the image can be detected in a short time with high precision.